

# VIDEO COMPUTER SYSTEM™



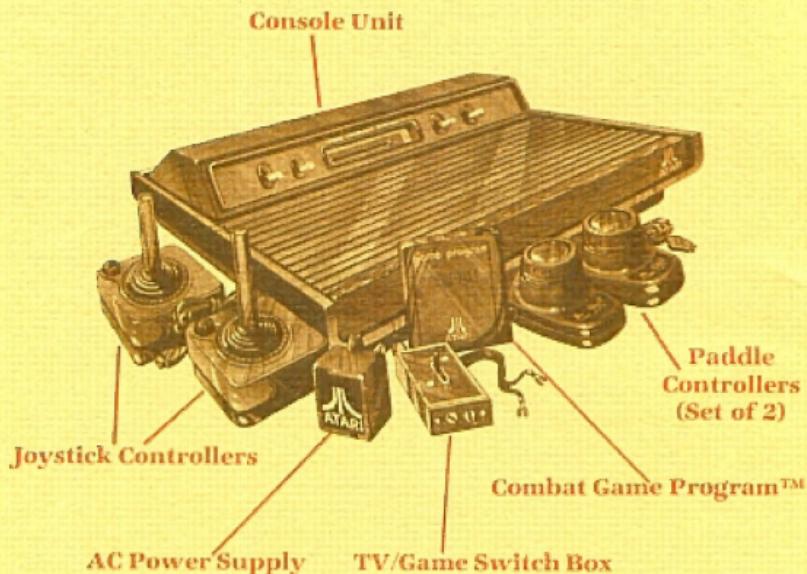
OWNER'S  
MANUAL  
MODEL CX2600A



A Warner Communications Company 

AtariGuide

# 1 UNPACK GAME



When you remove your ATARI® Video Computer System™ from the box, you should have:

- ATARI Video Computer System Console Unit
- Combat Game Program™ Packet (with Game Instruction Booklet)
- 2 Joystick Controllers
- Paddle Controller (Set of 2)
- AC Power Supply
- TV/Game Switch Box (with twin-lead wires)

Your ATARI Video Computer System is engineered not to show a phosphor memory of the playfield or score digits. We suggest, however, to protect your television:

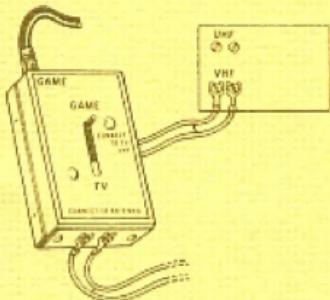
1. When playing the games, turn down the contrast of your television.
2. Turn the ATARI Video Computer System OFF when not in use.

## 2 INSTALL SWITCH BOX

Your TV/Game Switch Box attaches easily to your TV's VHF antenna screws. Find the picture that looks the most like the back of your TV set and follow those instructions. A flat screwdriver is required.

### If your television has four screws only:

- Disconnect the twin-lead wire from your television and attach it to the "Antenna" screw terminals on the TV/Game Switch Box.
- Connect the twin-lead wire from the TV/Game Switch Box to the VHF antenna terminals on your television set.



In each of these two cases, you may need to buy an "impedance matching transformer" (also called a "balun coil"). The transformer is necessary only if you do NOT have a flat twin-lead antenna wire. It is available at a nominal cost from your local TV and hi-fi stores.

### If your television has a "U" shaped slider or a slide switch:

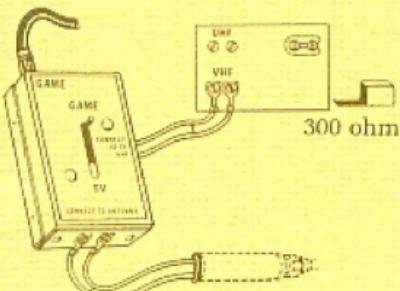
- Move the "U" shaped slider to make connection between the two screws.

OR

Push the slide switch to the side marked "300 ohm" or "300Ω".

- If you have a round antenna cable:

- Disconnect the cable from your television.
- Screw the cable into the impedance-matching transformer.
- Attach the impedance-matching transformer to the "Antenna" screw terminals on the TV/Game Switch box.



OR

If you have flat twin-lead antenna wire:

- Disconnect it from the television and attach it to the "Antenna" screw terminals on the TV/Game Switch Box.

C. Connect the short twin-lead wire from the TV/Game Switch Box to the VHF-antenna terminals on your television set.

**If your television has a short round cable:**

A. If you have a round antenna cable,

- Disconnect the cable from your television.
- Screw the cable into the impedance-matching transformer.
- Attach the impedance-matching transformer to the "Antenna" screw terminals on the TV/Game Switch Box.

OR

If you have flat twin-lead antenna wire:

- Disconnect it from the television and attach it to the "Antenna" screw terminals on the TV/Game Switch Box.

B. Attach the television's short loose-hanging cable to the connector next to it on your television set.

C. Connect the twin-lead wire from the TV/Game Switch Box to the VHF antenna terminals on your television set.

**If your television is connected to Cable TV:**

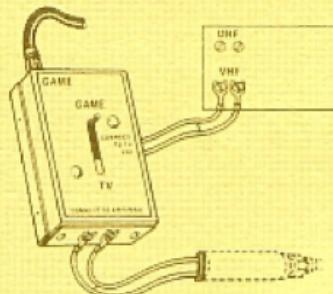
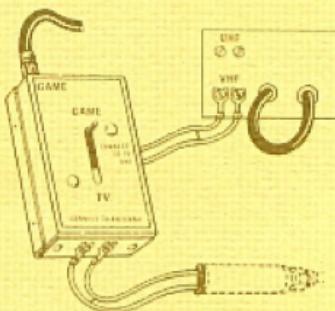
A. Disconnect the cable from the back of your television set.

Note: Your Cable TV company may have already supplied you with an impedance-matching transformer.

B. Attach the twin leads from the impedance-matching transformer to the "Antenna" screw terminals on your TV/Game Switch Box.

C. Screw the cable into the impedance-matching transformer.

Plug the Game Cable from your ATARI Video Computer System into the TV/Game Switch Box at the "Game" connector.



The TV/Game Switch Box may remain attached to your television antenna without bothering your television program reception.

The TV/Game Switch Box can be attached permanently to the back of your television set.

- Peel off the protective paper on the back of the TV/Game Switch Box.
- Press the exposed sticky surface onto any clear area on the back of your television near the antenna terminals.

By attaching a TV/Game Switch Box to each television in your home, you can easily move your ATARI Video Computer System from room to room. Extra TV/Game Switch Boxes, part number CA010325, are available from ATARI, INC. See section 9 for ordering information.

#### **Federal Communications Commission regulations require that you:**

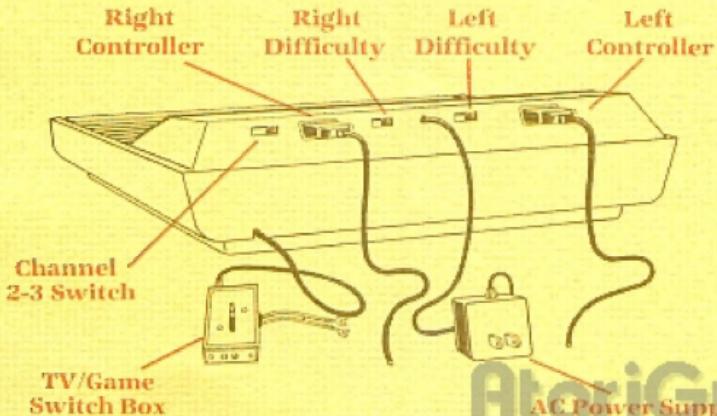
- Avoid using any more twin-lead wires from the TV/Game Switch Box to your television than are supplied with the TV/Game Switch Box.
- Avoid connecting the twin-lead wire from the TV/GAME Switch Box to any television antenna or cable TV outlet.
- Avoid attaching loose wires to your television antenna terminals when using your ATARI Video Computer System.

Any of the above may cause interference to nearby television sets and is against Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations.

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## **3 ASSEMBLE CONSOLE**

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- Attach the controllers by plugging them into the terminals on the back of the console. The controller jacks are designed to fit only one way, so do not try to force them into the terminals.

**NOTE:** The COMBAT Game Program supplied with your ATARI Video Computer System uses the Joystick Controllers.

- Insert the jack of the AC Power Supply into the back of your ATARI Video Computer System Console unit.
- Check to see that the POWER switch on the console is OFF.
- Plug the AC Power Supply into any convenient 120-volt electrical outlet.

**NOTE:** Using any AC Power Supply other than that designed for your ATARI Video Computer System can damage the unit.

**POWER REQUIREMENT:** 9-volts DC, 500ma.

- On the TV/Game Switch Box that you have attached to your television set's antenna terminals, push the TV/Game switch to GAME.
- Turn on your television.
- Set the volume control of your television at minimum loudness.
- If your television has an automatic fine-tuning control, turn it OFF, and manually fine-tune for the best picture.  
(**Note:** If your television will receive color only when the automatic fine-tuning is on, keep the automatic fine-tuning on.)
- Set the channel selector of your television to channel 3.

The Video Computer System is factory-set to operate on Channel 3. However, if Channel 3 is broadcasting in your area, you may receive interference. In that case, change your television and Channel Switch to Channel 2. The Channel Switch is located on the back panel of the Console unit.

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## 4 INSERT GAME PROGRAM™

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- Check to see that the POWER switch on the ATARI Video Computer Console unit is OFF.

**IMPORTANT:** To prolong the life of your ATARI Video Computer System and protect the electronic components, the Console unit should be OFF when inserting or removing an ATARI Game Program.

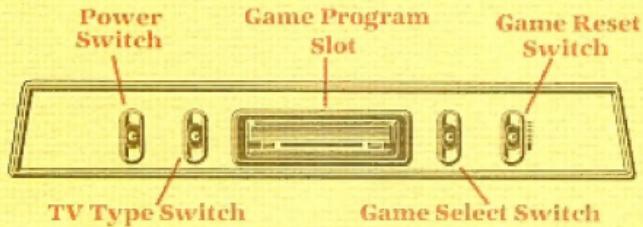


- Hold the ATARI Game Program so that the name on the end is towards you and reads right side up.
- Insert the ATARI Game Program CAREFULLY into the slot in the center of the Console unit switch panel. Be sure the Game Program is firmly seated, but do NOT TRY TO FORCE IT.

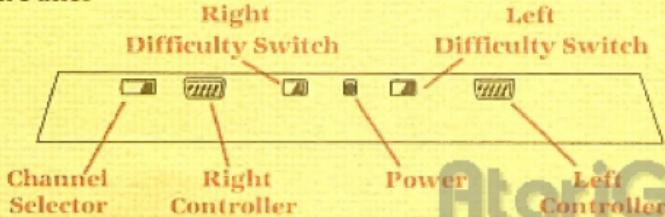
When removing the ATARI Game Program, pull it straight out of the Console. Check to see that the POWER switch on the Console is OFF.

## 5 TO START PLAY

### Front Panel



### Back Panel



- If your ATARI Video Computer System is attached to a color television, slide the TV TYPE switch to the COLOR position. This will allow you to play the games in vivid color.
- If your television is black and white, slide the TV TYPE switch to B & W. The ATARI Video Computer System will automatically adjust the contrast of your television so you can get full enjoyment of the games on your B & W television.
- Slide the POWER switch to ON. A game playfield will appear on your television screen.

**IMPORTANT: If no playfield appears, which can happen if you have inserted the ATARI Game Program while the Console unit is turned ON, slide the POWER switch to OFF and then back to ON.**

To prolong the life of your ATARI Video Computer System and protect the electronic components, the console unit should be OFF when inserting an ATARI Game Program.

- Adjust the volume control of your television set to a comfortable level. The action game sounds will be coming from your television speaker.
- Generally the GAME SELECT switch is used to select the game or game variation of the ATARI Game Program you wish to play. Refer to the GAME PROGRAM INSTRUCTION booklet for your particular ATARI Game Program for details.
- For most ATARI Game Programs, depressing the GAME RESET switch will begin game play. Some ATARI Game Programs may use this switch differently. Refer to the GAME PROGRAM INSTRUCTION booklet for details.
- In most cases, the LEFT and RIGHT DIFFICULTY switches are used to handicap more skillful players. Generally, Position A is more difficult than Position B. Some ATARI Game Programs may use these two switches for other functions. See the GAME PROGRAM INSTRUCTION booklet for details.

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## 6 CHANGE TV BACK TO REGULAR PROGRAMMING

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- Slide the POWER switch on the Console unit to OFF.
- On the TV/Game Switch Box attached to the back of your television set, slide the TV/Game switch to "TV".

## 7 MAINTENANCE

Your ATARI Video Computer System should bring many years of enjoyment. In order to keep your System in good working condition, please remember the following points;

- Always turn the POWER switch on the Console unit OFF before inserting an ATARI Game Program.
- Don't try to force the Game Program into the Console.
- Your ATARI Game Programs are protected from normal wear and tear as they are fully enclosed. However, care should be taken not to spill liquids on them.
- Don't pour liquids into the Game Program Slot of the Console.
- Lifting the Console unit or the controllers by the connecting wires can bend or crimp them, breaking the internal insulation of the wire.
- Care should be taken not to drop the Console, Controllers, or ATARI Game Programs on any hard surface.
- Do not expose the Console, Controllers, or ATARI Game Programs to excessive or extreme heat.
- Remember to turn the ATARI Video Computer System OFF when not in use.
- Use of any AC Power Supply other than that designed for use with your ATARI Video Computer System can damage the electronic parts of the system.
- Clean the exterior parts with a soft, slightly damp cloth.

## 8 TROUBLESHOOTING CHECKLIST

### SYMPTOM

### PROBABLE CAUSE AND REMEDY

No playfield image on television screen or whitish-grey screen

- Switch Box set at "TV", change to "GAME".
- Game Cable not properly plugged into Switch Box.
- Twin-lead wire not properly attached to VHF antenna terminals on rear of television.

- Console unit POWER switch not turned ON.
- Game Program inserted into Console while POWER switch was ON. Slide switch to OFF and back to ON.
- A particularly strong television station may be broadcasting on channel 3 in your area (or on Cable TV). Remove the antenna wire or cable from the ANTENNA connection on the TV/Game Switch Box.

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Left (or right) controller does not function correctly

- Check to see that controller is firmly seated in Console unit controller jack.
- Move malfunctioning controller to opposite Console controller jack. If controller still does not function correctly, it is faulty.

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No regular TV programs.

- Switch Box set at GAME. Change to TV.
- Twin-lead wire not properly attached to VHF antenna terminals on rear of TV.
- Antenna wire not properly attached at "300 OHM" screws on Switch Box.

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Playfield fuzzy, like weak TV station signal.

- Poor connections at antenna terminals of television set or Switch Box.
- Television set not fine-tuned for best picture. Make sure automatic fine-tuning is OFF and manually fine-tune for best picture. (Note: If your television will receive color only when the automatic fine-tuning is on, keep the automatic fine-tuning on.)
- A particularly strong television station may be broadcasting on channel 3 in your area (or on Cable TV). Remove the antenna wire or cable from the ANTENNA connection on the TV/Game Switch Box.

Playfield unsharp, unsteady or no color.

- TV TYPE switch on Console set at "B&W" position. Move to COLOR.
- Television set not fine-tuned for best picture. Make sure automatic fine-tuning is OFF and manually fine-tuned for best picture. (Note: If your television will receive color only when the automatic fine-tuning is on, keep the automatic fine-tuning on.)
- A particularly strong television station may be broadcasting on channel 3 in your area (or on cable TV). Remove the antenna wire or cable from the ANTENNA connection on the TV/Game Switch Box.

Playfield unsharp, unsteady, or unable to tell differences between playing pieces and/or playfield. (B&W TV)

- TV TYPE switch on Console set at COLOR position. Move to "B&W".
- A particularly strong television station may be broadcasting on channel 3 in your area (or on Cable TV). Remove the antenna wire or cable from the ANTENNA connection on the TV/Game Switch Box.

Sound buzzes or is distorted.

- Television set not fine-tuned. Adjust television set fine-tuning controls until both picture and sound are clear.
- A particularly strong television station may be broadcasting on channel 3 in your area (or on cable TV). Remove the antenna wire or cable from the ANTENNA connection on the TV/Game Switch Box.

No game sounds

- Television set volume not turned up. Adjust television set volume to desired level.

As a rule of thumb, if no playfield appears when you turn ON your Video Computer Console, turn the unit OFF, wait 10 seconds, and then turn the unit ON.

On some color televisions it may be necessary to leave the automatic fine tuning control ON during game play.

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## 9 PARTS LIST

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The replacement parts listed below should be ordered directly from ATARI, INC. Consumer Division, Parts Department, 1346 Bordeaux Drive, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. When ordering repair parts, always include the following information:

- Part Number
- Name of Game
- Model Number
- Part Name

The Model Number of your ATARI Video Computer System is located on the bottom of the Console unit. Always mention the Model Number when requesting service or repair parts.

PART NAME	PART NUMBER
Joystick Controller	CA012994-03
Paddle Controller (set of 2)	CA012760-06
TV/Game Switch Box	CA014120
AC Power Supply	CA014034
Rubber Foot	88-1004
Owner's Manual	C015394